



MESSENGER

CONVERSION OF THE HEART

AM 820: the tip of the spear that pierced my heart

Mike Young, a military veteran and firefighter, says, "St. Gabriel Radio is like the tip of a spear that pierced my heart."

"Once you know the Truth, it's like having a loud speaker attached to you."

"Catholic radio opened my eyes to the Truth of the Catholic Church. Once you know the Truth, it's like having a loud speaker attached to you," he declares.

As a youngster in the Reynoldsburg area, Mike grew up in a middle-class,

Protestant family. When he was three, his parents divorced and the family fell away from church. Even so, Mike remained connected to Christ. In his teens, a preacher reignited Mike's faith and baptized him. Later, Mike became an Air Force fireman and paramedic, serving in Afghanistan.

CHASING ANYTHING TO FILL A VOID

Upon his return from Afghanistan, he went to work for the Westerville Fire Department. There, he struggled with a lot of demons, questioned his faith, and chased anything that would fill a void in his soul. "When I was working as a firefighter in Westerville, the Word of

God began changing me, slowly. I became a great fan of Billy Graham, constantly listening to his old sermons."

Mike met and married Mary Beth, a cradle Catholic. They found common ground

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in Christian beliefs but faith was not at the center of their lives. They disagreed on a number of beliefs. He explains, "I didn't understand the Sacraments. I didn't know that marriage is a Sacrament! We were both lukewarm Christians when we married. The more I tried to prove my wife and her family wrong about Catholic teachings, the more I ended up proving myself wrong." Even so, they attended Mass together at St. John Neumann. The truth of the Catholic Church began to sink in thanks to Fr. Sizemore.

FR. SIZEMORE'S HOMILIES TOUCH A HEART

Mike realized that he needed to make changes in his work life and his faith life. When he learned that his estranged father was dying, Mike visited his father and made amends with him. He passed away two weeks later on a Saturday. Mike says that he didn't want to go to church on that Sunday. He went reluctantly and prayed that the Lord guide him in making funeral arrangements for the father who was never around and died in poverty. That Sunday, Fr. Sizemore's homily about the Good Samaritan answered the questions that were on Mike's heart.

The following Sunday, Fr. Sizemore once more gave a homily about charity and serving others that seemed to speak directly to Mike and Mary Beth's questions about their business. "After that I was all in. I knew this was the Lord calling me to the Catholic Faith." He went out on a limb. Leaving behind firefighting, he started running his own business fulltime, Old Skool Construction, specializing in commercial/residential concrete, and electric. He decided to join the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) class, a journey that would take a couple of years.



[CONTINUED]

ST. GABRIEL RADIO REACHES EVEN FARTHER

By the end of the year, St. Gabriel Radio's newly acquired station, FM 88.3, will begin broadcasting in Scioto County, bringing Catholic Radio within earshot of most people in the Diocese of Columbus.

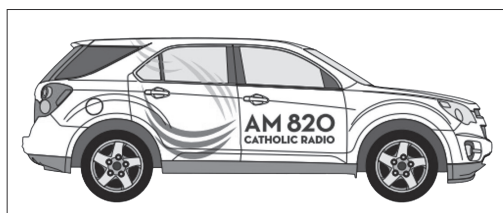
Thankful hearts

Lord, *teach* me to offer you a heart of *thanksgiving* and praise in all my daily experiences of life.

TESTIMONY

"AM 820 helps my Catholic Faith that was dormant for so many years. Truly the only thing we can't live without is the knowledge of love of God."
- Mary, Lancaster

NEW LISTENER OUTREACH

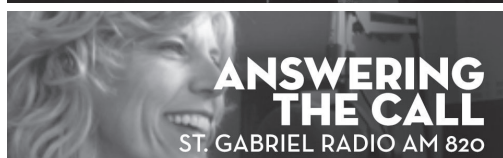
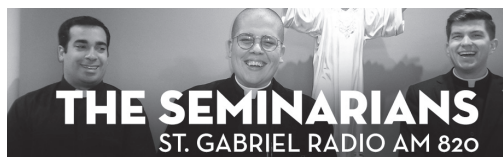


Watch for the new, motorized, AM 820 billboard! You'll see an SUV wrapped with the AM 820 logo travelling the highways and byways of Central Ohio!

ARCHIVES OF LOCAL PROGRAMS

On the new App and at StGabrielRadio.com.

BISHOP CAMPBELL RADIO ARCHIVES



CONVERSION OF THE HEART [CONTINUED]

"Today, I see that, had I continued as a firefighter, my work schedule would not have allowed me to complete RCIA or attend Mass regularly."

"It was a scary time for me, making these changes. Regarding the decision to enter the Church, I didn't tell anyone in my family. Today, I see that, had I continued as a firefighter, my work schedule would not have allowed me to complete RCIA or attend Mass regularly."

G O D, WHAT DO YOU NEED ME TO DO?

"Running my business, Old Skool Construction, is rough. One Sunday in Mass, I prayed, 'God, what do you need me to do?' After the homily, Fr. Sizemore announced the need for contractors to help flood victims in West Virginia. They needed concrete and electric skills. That's my area of expertise! So I went to Clay County twice to help," recalls Mike. That experience led to an important job restoring the St. Francis parish rectory in Newark.

Today, Old Skool Construction is thriving and has become a St. Gabriel Radio AM 820 Business Member.

Mike deeply appreciates Fr. Sizemore. In 2016, Fr. Sizemore's appeal to the parish to put the AM 820 bumper magnets on their cars and listen during Lent had an especially big impact on Mike. "I participated in Lent for the sake of my family even though I wasn't Catholic at that time. We put the magnets on our cars and I tuned into AM 820 for Lent. It changed my life and I haven't looked back!

"I started downloading the AM 820 podcasts and using the 'Listen Live' on the website. I stream it on my phone and can listen anywhere. *Faith Alive* is phenomenal," Mike says. Fr. Sizemore scheduled Mike to enter the Church at St Francis in Newark, February 21st, 2018. As it happened, it would be the same day that Billy Graham died.

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THE SACRAMENTS – SPIRITUAL STEROIDS

"AM 820 was and still is a huge catalyst for my faith. RCIA and programs like *Catholic Answers*, Fr. Riccardo, *Called to Communion*, *Word on Fire*, all give me biblical answers and insight for all the subjects that I tried to prove as wrong to my wife over the years!" he admits. "The first time I went to Confession, I was carrying years of guilt and shame. Now, Reconciliation is so important to me. The Sacraments are like spiritual steroids!" he exclaims.

Eucharistic Adoration was a real awakening for Mike. He started with Adoration at St. John Neumann parish in Sunbury and now both he and Mary Beth go to Adoration at St. Francis in Newark.

"I've learned that family is more about sacrifice than about blood lines. My family was broken up when my biological father left. The family was brought back together with my step father years later. He sacrificed everything for us, even though we weren't his

CONVERSION OF THE HEART [CONTINUED]

"The biggest gift that I've received is my family which introduced me into the truthfulness of the Catholic Faith."

Catholic Faith. Our son is studying at Wheeling Jesuit University and we still have three young daughters at home. This year, we decided to enroll the kids at St. Francis. I can't begin to describe the joy that I feel when I see my daughters praying and drawing pictures of Jesus and the angels! The girls love going to school at St. Francis, where Fr. David Sizemore is pastor."

COMMUNION WITH GOD IS THE START OF THE WEEK, NOT THE END!

"Faith has definitely changed the dynamics of our marriage and family," Mike affirms. "Now the summit of the week for our family is Sunday Mass. Being in Communion with God is the start of the week, not the end! My conversion, along with AM 820, have helped my wife "turn up her faith" from being a cafeteria Catholic to a Catholic disciple. We work hard to follow all of the Church's teachings, including the practice of natural family planning, which is difficult but very rewarding."

Mike gives other examples of how his family has grown in the Faith. "My mother in law is a cradle Catholic and she says that I have inspired her to learn more about the Faith and how to defend it. My wife and I work extremely long hours. Family and friends tell us often that we should take a vacation 'just for us.' That doesn't appeal to us at all because we want to be with our family."



LIKE A TRUE SOLDIER, MIKE WANTS TO LEAVE OUR READERS WITH A CHALLENGE

Read the Gospels.

Pray every day.

Go to Confession often.

Listen to St. Gabriel Radio.

bloodline. My wife and kids look up to me and need my care. I find myself changing and I realize that I'm made to serve my family and others. The more I've come to the Faith, the more I understand that my life is not about me. I'm no longer attracted to the wild life of my youth," he concludes.

"The biggest gift that I've received is my family which introduced me into the truthfulness of the

NEW APP!
Download today.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Kathy Fulop, M.D., made time in a busy week to coordinate the hospitality for the Fall Spirit Drive. She kept the dozens of volunteers and refreshments on track.

Thank you, super volunteer Kathy!

NEW ON AM 820



Catherine Suprenant, Jennifer Fullen, and Stephanie Rapp of the Columbus Diocese Office of Marriage and Family Life offer inspiration for your day on AM 820 at 7:28 in the morning.

PRAY FOR THE FAITHFULLY DEPARTED

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace.

Amen.



EWTVN

Global
Catholic
Radio



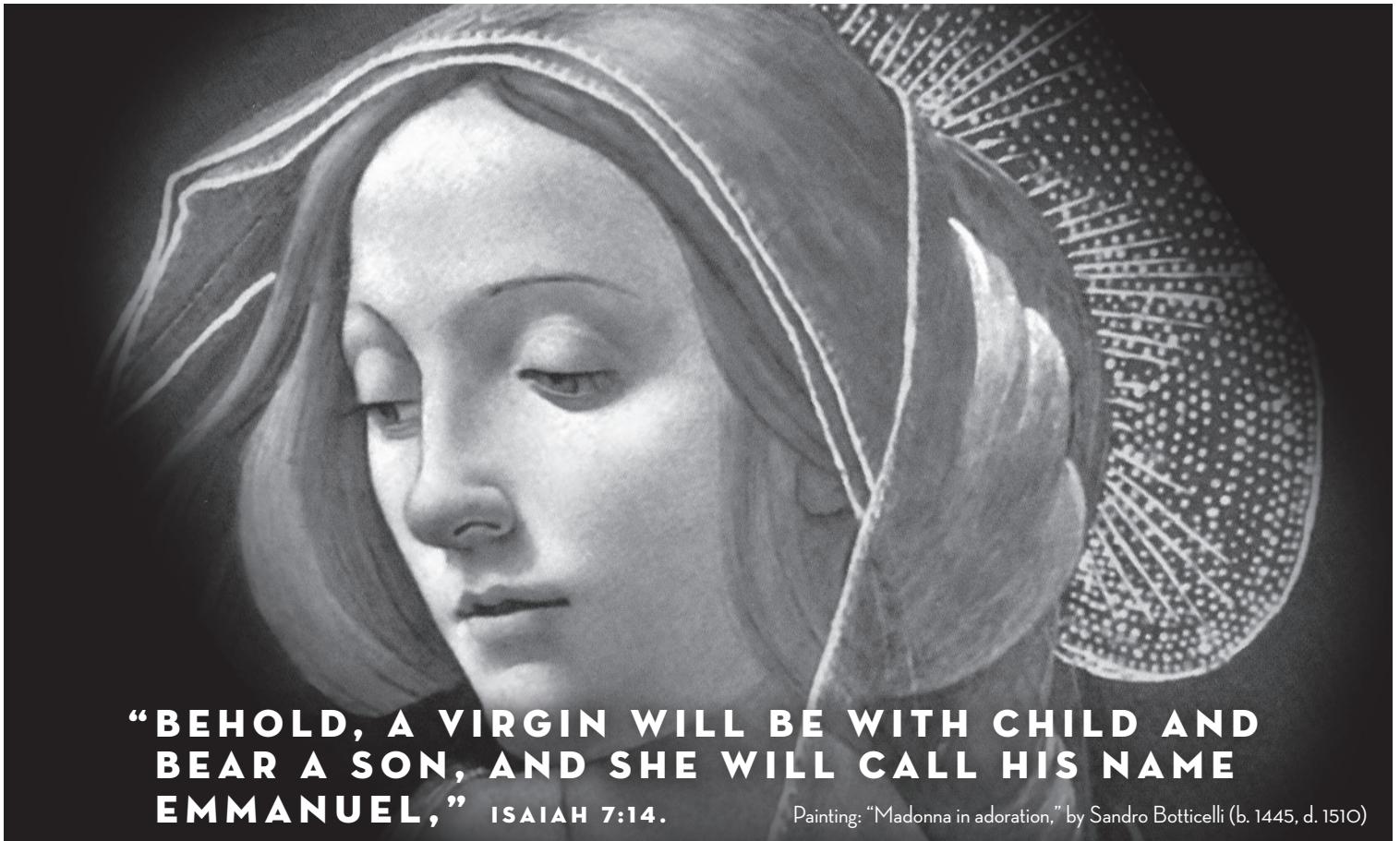
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MISSION STATEMENT

St. Gabriel Catholic Radio's mission is to reach more souls with quality programming that is faithful to the teachings of the Church and presented in a way that inspires conversion of heart and a deepening faith while building up the local Body of Christ.

(614) 459-4820 | WWW.STGABRIELRADIO.COM



**“BEHOLD, A VIRGIN WILL BE WITH CHILD AND
BEAR A SON, AND SHE WILL CALL HIS NAME
EMMANUEL,”** ISAIAH 7:14.

Painting: “Madonna in adoration,” by Sandro Botticelli (b. 1445, d. 1510)